

REMARKS

Claims 25-34 are pending in this application. Claims 1-24 have been cancelled and claims 25-34 have been added. Applicants have added new claims to seek protection on subject matter not yet claimed.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 4, 6, 7 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious based upon DE 4203173, to Buchholz et al. and in view of JP 63-45229. Applicants respectfully disagree. Notwithstanding, Applicants have cancelled claims 4, 6, 7 and 20-24 and have submitted, herewith, new claims to seek protection on certain combinations of features, not previously presented, that provide a lightweight backing plate for a drum brake assembly. Applicants are of the opinion that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the combination of these claim features. The present amendment renders the rejection of claims 4, 6, 7 and 20-24 moot.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 292-2920.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

Date:

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